

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /085 W
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R 191120Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 447
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
/AMEMBASSY OSLO 078
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
UDKRP/AMEMBASSY PARGUE 2642
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
"AMEMBASSY VIENNA 5096
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 0290

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ELAB PINT FR HU IT XG
SUBJECT: FRENCH AND ITALIAN TRADE UNION PARTICIPATION IN WFTU

REF: (A) 77 BUDAPEST 3794 (B) 77 ROME 17697 (NOTAL)

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1. SUMMARY: HUNGARIAN SOURCES CONFIRM EMBASSY ROME'S REPORTS
OF ITALIAN LABOR CONFEDERATION (CGIL) DISENCHANTMENT WITH
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU). IT IS LIKELY, BUT
NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN, CGIL WILL WITHDRAW FROM THE FEDERATION.
ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS OF HUNGARIAN TRADE UNION COUNCILS
(SZOT). SAME SOURCES ASSERT THAT WHILE FRENCH LABOR
CONFEDERATION (CGT) LEADER SEGUY ECHOED SOME OF ITALIAN

CONCERNS AT NOVEMBER WFTU EXECUTIVE MEETING IN BUDAPEST,
CGT DECISION ON ITS FUTURE ROLE IN WFTU STILL TWO-THREE
YEARS AWAY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT MEETING, POLOFF DISCUSSED WFTU PROBLEMS,
IN PARTICULAR PARTICIPATION OF WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST
TRADE UNIONS IN WFTU, WITH OFFICIALS OF INTERNATIONAL
DEPARTMENT OF SZOT. MOST INFORMATIVE SOURCE WAS
FERENC BOGNAR, DEPUTY HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WFTU AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR
ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS.

3. BOGNAR CONFIRMED ITALIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF NOVEMBER
WFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN BUDAPEST, ACCORDING
TO WHICH CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LUCIANO LAMA WAS STRONGLY
CRITICAL OF WFTU POLICY AND PRACTICES. LAMA WAS REPORTED
AT THAT TIME TO HAVE COMPLAINED THAT: (1) WFTU PAINTED
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN ABSOLUTE TERMS FINDING ALL
FAULT IN THE WEST AND ALL VIRTUE IN THE EAST; (2) WFTU
LOOKED AT EASTERN AND WESTERN TRADE UNIONS IN SAME MAN-
NER; (3) WFTU FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CGIL VIEWS; AND
(4) WFTU IS TOO RIGID AND REFUSES TO ADAPT TO CURRENT
INTERNATIONAL REALITIES.

4. BOGNAR SAID THAT HUNGARIANS HAD IMPRESSION THAT
CGIL LEADERS HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM
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WFTU BEFORE THEY CAME TO BUDAPEST AND THAT LAMA'S
CRITICAL SPEECH TO WFTU EXECUTIVE WAS ONLY AN EX POST
FACTO JUSTIFICATION FOR THAT DECISION. BOGNAR ALSO
SAID THAT, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, CGIL HAD ALREADY
WITHDRAWN SOMEWHAT FROM WFTU ACTIVITIES, IN PARTI-
CULAR, ABANDONING SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS IN THE WFTU
SECRETARIAT. WHILE BOGNAR EXPECTS CGIL TO LEAVE WFTU,
HE LEFT DOOR OPEN TO SLIGHT POSSIBILITY THAT WFTU
SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE GENSOUS, ABETTED BY GENERAL
CGT SECRETARY SEGUY, MIGHT BE ABLE TO WORK OUT COMPROMISE
BETWEEN WFTU LEADERSHIP AND ITS SUPPORTERS IN
TRADE UNIONS OF "EXISTING SOCIALIST STATES" ON ONE
HAND AND CGIL ON THE OTHER. IN ANY CASE, ACCORDING TO
BOGNAR, CGIL COUNCIL STILL MUST MAKE ITS FORMAL DECISION
ON WFTU MEMBERSHIP. BOGNAR BELIEVES THAT CGIL,
WHETHER IT DECIDES TO WITHDRAW, REMAIN OR BECOME AN
OBSERVER, HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED TO CAST ITS LOT WITH
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) IN ORDER
PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION POLI-
TICS AS WELL AS FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS. ACCORD-
ING BOGNAR, FUTURE CGIL RELATIONS WITH EAST EUROPEAN
TRADE UNIONS WILL TAKE PLACE CHIEFLY ON A BILATERAL

BASIS, AS LAMA SUGGESTED IN HIS SPEECH TO WFTU EXECUTIVE.

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5. WITH REGARD CFT, BOGNAR NOTED THAT GENERAL SECRETARY SEGUY'S SPEECH TO WFTU EXECUTIVE, WHILE ALSO CRITICAL OF WFTU POLICIES AND ECHOING MANY POINTS MADE BY LAMA, WAS MORE MODERATE. BOGNAR POINTED OUT THAT CGT CONTINUES TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE ON WFTU SECRETARIAT. HE PREDICTED THAT CGT WOULD JOIN THE ETUC WITHIN TWO
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TO THREE YEARS. HE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT CGT MIGHT TRY HARDER TO MAINTAIN SOME KIND OF LINK TO WFTU. IN HIS OPINION, MUCH WOULD DEPEND UPON WHAT CONDITIONS THE ETUC PLACED ON CGT MEMBERSHIP.

6. BOGNAR SAID WHEN IT MEETS IN PRAGUE THIS APRIL, HE EXPECTED THE WFTU WOULD MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENTS TO SATISFY THE DEMANDS FOR REFORM, MODERNIZATION, AND OPENNESS TO LESS DOCTRINAIRE UNIONS. HOWEVER, HE STATED CGIL COULD NOT EXPECT WFTU TO TRANSFORM ITSELF IN ORDER TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF ONE MEMBER. BOGNAR ALSO MAINTAINED THAT, ALTHOUGH MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE LIBERALIZED, THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF PERMITTING MEMBERSHIP OF WEST EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS IN WFTU. HE SAID AT PRESENT THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BEFORE THE WFTU TO BRING IN NEW MEMBER UNIONS. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION HE STATED THAT PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH TRADE UNIONS HAD THEIR HANDS FULL AT HOME AND WOULD NOT BE WORRYING ABOUT WFTU MEMBERSHIP FOR THE TIME BEING.

7. SZOT, BOGNAR SAID, FINDS IT NATURAL THAT CGIL AND CGT WOULD WISH TO JOIN ETUC AND ORIENT THEMSELVES MORE WITHIN THE WESTERN THAN THE EASTERN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. THEY ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN THE WEST AND HAVE GREATER INTERESTS TO REALIZE THERE. THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY RELATE TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS IS THEIR DECISION TO MAKE. SZOT WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT NEITHER THE CGIL NOR THE CGT WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO LEAVE THE WFTU.

8. COMMENT: BOGNAR SEEMED MORE PHILOSOPHIC THAN EXERCISED ABOUT POSSIBLE CGIL AND CGT WITHDRAWAL FROM WFTU, GIVING NO INDICATIONS THAT SZOT WOULD MAKE ANY

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SPECIAL EFFORT TO KEEP THE TWO WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS WITHIN WFTU. HE SEEMED TO REGARD WFTU REFORM AS A LONG-TERM PROCESS IN WHICH WFTU WOULD BY NO MEANS DEVELOP A CLOSER AFFINITY WITH THE WESTERN TRADE UNIONS THAN EASTERN STATES WITH WESTERN STATES. PARALLEL TO THE HUNGARIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS EUROCOMMUNISM, THE SZOT WISHES THE CGIL AND CGT WELL BUT FEELS, AS BOGNAR AFFIRMED AT ONE POINT, THAT CGIL CANNOT EXPECT WFTU TO TRANSFORM ITSELF TO CGIL'S AND CGT'S REQUIREMENTS, ANY MORE THAN WEST EUROPEAN CP'S CAN EXPECT EXISTING SOCIALIST STATES TO ADAPT EUROCOMMUN-

ISM'S POLICIES AND ATTITUDES.

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